



Adopted: August 3, 2002

National Assessment Governing Board

Policy Statement on Informing Parents About Participation in NAEP

Introduction

The No Child Left Behind Act (P.L. 107-110) provides that student participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress shall be voluntary, and the law contains the following section:

“STUDENT PARTICIPATION—Parents of children selected to participate in any [NAEP] assessment authorized under this section shall be informed before the administration of any authorized assessment that their child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish any authorized assessment, and is not required to answer any test question.”

However, the legislation also requires all states and school districts to provide assurances that they will participate in the National Assessment in reading and mathematics at grades four and eight, starting in 2003, as a condition for receiving Title I federal aid.

To implement the provision on parental notification, the National Assessment Governing Board hereby adopts the following:

Guiding Principles

1. The National Center for Education Statistics will assist schools, school districts, and states in notifying the parents of students selected for NAEP samples about the “opt out” provision in federal law. The manner of such notification shall be determined by the state, district, or school in which the students are enrolled.

2. NCES will provide brief explanatory information about the nature and importance of NAEP to accompany the notice to parents.
3. NCES will prepare and disseminate more detailed information on NAEP that is specifically designed for parents and the public. Such information shall be available in pamphlets and brochures and on the Internet.
4. The Governing Board shall monitor implementation of this policy. The Board will review relevant procedures and materials prepared by the National Center for Education Statistics.